**Thursday 26th November 2020**

**Zoom**

**Members**

Up to 185 members present, including:

Alexandra Cazacu (AC)- Chair

Naomie Lebe (NL) - SU President

Chiko Bwalya (CB) - VP Education

Ugo Andy-Eke (UAE) - VP Student Opportunities

Toluwa Atilade (TA) - VP Welfare and Community

Shannon McDavitt (SM) - Women’s Officer

Alicia Kelly (AK) - Student Rep

Andrew Coffin (ACo)- Student Rep

Luke Ruffell (LM) – Student Rep

**In attendance**

Charlotte Morris-Davis (Secretary/Democracy and Campaigns Manager)

Emily Cox (Liberation and Campaigns Coordinator)

Kerry Dean (Head of Student Participation)

Roshana Wickremasinghe (Policy Advisor)

George Baldwin (Student Voice Manager)

Sarah Prince (Administrator)

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**1. Welcome and Introduction**

AC welcomed the SUBU Summit participants, deemed the meeting quorate, introduced the agenda, and set out the operational points and the procedures to be followed during the meeting. This included that the results of all votes would be announced via email following the meeting to ensure that only votes cast by voting members were counted and not during the meeting itself.

**2. Trustee Board Update**

AC introduced NL to present the Trustee Board report.

NL stated that she was the Chair of the Trustee Board and that since the start of the pandemic the Trustees Board’s main focus had been on dealing with the financial challenges faced by SUBU due to cut in block grant from the University and the closure of commercial outlets due to the pandemic, as well as ensuring that SUBU’s core chartable objectives and services to students are sustained.

**3. Full-Time Officer Reports**

**a. Presidents Report**

NL introduced her report and provided updates on her progress and outcomes on:

**1.** **Lobbying BU to subsidise graduation fees based on household income-**

NL has as met with relevant people in BU, including marketing and fundraising to discuss best strategies to take this forward. NL is now looking to work with business to fund subsidisation.

**2. Improving communication channels between the Students’ Union and all BU students-**

NL has been working closely with BU on this and now there is a SUBU button on iBU app. NL is now working with the COO of BU to ensure that the work of SUBU is clearly communicated within the University.

**3.Developments on a mentorship scheme-**

NL stated that this had to change slightly due to the implications of COVID, but is hoping for it to be delivered in 20/21 and will be focusing on this more next semester.

**4. Futureproofing the SU-**

NL stated that they have been working to deliver a weekly Full-Time Officer Question Time to ensure that students can come and talk to them and find out more about what they have been doing. NL stated that she has been focusing on strategy and finances with Trustees.

**5. Working with the University and Union to improve the international students Hub-**

NL wants to make Bournemouth feel like home and has been attending lots of meeting with the University to ensure that this happens. NL has been working with a small group of international students to gauge their experience. Creating FAQ’s and short videos to launch next term.

**b. Vice President Education Report**

CB introduced her report and provided updates on her progress and outcomes on:

**1. Improving the accessibility of SimOn and make sure Student Reps are equipped to fulfil their duties-**

CB stated that changes have been made to the Rep system, including creating new roles to ensure that everyone’s voice is represented. CB also hoping to work with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to ensure feedback systems including SimOn and MUSE and working well enough for students to access properly.

**2. Making the ALS screening progress more accessible and affordable-**

CB said that this has been alerted because of COVID. Students accessibility needs are heightened when working from home. This service should not be out of reach to students but has been informed that fee has already been subsidised by two-thirds but working to subsidise this further.

**3. Introducing a safety pledge mandating staff to correctly acknowledge students preferred names and pronouns-**

CB said that they started this as the Black Student Officer, students should be known by their name and not their student number. Working to get phonetic spellings on Brightspace. CB Is hoping to roll this out soon.

**4. Redeveloping an Education Council to represent marginalised students-**

CB has been working with the Associate Dean of Student Experience in HSS to ensure that students have a forum to have their voice heard. So far there have been ones for student parents on Zoom and hope to roll this out further soon.

**5. Working with BU to tackle seasonal depression-**

CB said that they had watched students go through difficult experiences and will be launching this during disability history month. CB is currently working with the Disabled Students Officer to develop this and ensure that students are not alone and are aware of the resources available.

**6. Additional Updates-**

CB is working with the University in relevant groups and meetings to ensure that the delivery of online teaching is of a high quality and recommended that if this is not the case students reach out to them.

**c. Vice-President Student Opportunities Report**

UAE introduced his report and provided updates on his progress and outcomes on:

**1. Implementing a hardship scheme to eliminate financial barriers to accessing clubs and societies-**

UAE has been working closely with the Student Opportunities Team. Is now working to make academic societies free and is looking to get BU to provide funding for academic societies. UAE is also looking for outside sources to sponsor this and is hoping to work with Santander. UAE said that he should be able to provide further information in the coming weeks.

**2. Providing a range of skills based volunteering opportunities to help students gain transferable skills-**

UAE said that research states that volunteering makes a huge impact on post study employability and he has worked to expand the current volunteering opportunities. USE said that if students cannot find a relevant volunteering opportunity they should reach out and the Opportunities Team will help them find others.

**3. Introduce wellbeing champions to clubs and societies-**

UAE said that this is being placed on hold due to COVID**.**

**4. Create an online space for students to access a monthly activities timetable-** UAE said that this manifesto point is completed and a timetable in now available on the homepage of the SUBU website.

**5. Providing support to international students to help support post-study employability-**

UAE said that his motivation for this point was that BU is complete when all students are getting what they want and that he has developed a survey to go out to international students at the start of 2021.

**6. Additional Updates-**

Black History Month and Pedal in the Park events to reach out to students and provide further opportunities. Currently planning how to deliver refreshers fair

**d. Vice-President Welfare and Community Report**

TA introduced her report and provided updates on her progress and outcomes on:

**1. Continuing and improving the period poverty campaign-**

TA said that she had launched the environmenstrual collective and campaign and given out sustainable products for free to students. TA has delayed implementing free sustainable period products in the toilets within the Student Centre due to COVID but hopes to do this soon.

**2. Reworking the Liberation Campaigns to make them more visible and effective-**

TA has been meeting with the Democracy and Campaigns Team to do this and has helped draft Transgender Guidance for SUBU and BU. TA is working closely with the current Liberation Officers who were elected recently and is developing an ‘Allyship Hub’ with them.

**3. Working with Reslife to tackle mental health crises within student accommodations-**

TA stated that mental health training already provided to ResLife and she is currently working with the Wellbeing Team to ensure that students are regularly checked in on.

**4. Working with VP Student Opportunities to provide more wellbeing support for clubs and societies-**

TA is working with the Vice-President for Student Opportunities and the Student Opportunities Team to see how this can be further developed next year.

**5. To reimagine what welfare means for students-**

TA stated that SUBU need to understand what our students need and said that she is working closely with the Student Voice and Policy Team to ensure that we are reviewing our services.

**6. Creating a review platform where students can rate agents and landlords-**

TA is working with a service that has been developed by an ex-BU student and hopes to launch this soon.

AC invited the participants to speak further with the Full-Time Officer in different discussion groups.

**4. Lapsing Policies Review**

AC introduced NL, as Chair of the Executive Committee, to present the Executive Committees recommendation as to whether policies should be lapsed or retained.

NL stated that the Executive Committees recommendation was to retain ‘Should SUBU priorities information and action around the UN Sustainable Development Goals up to 2030?’ as this was still important.

NL stated that the Executive Committees recommendation was to lapse ‘Should SUBU adopt a policy in support of student sex workers and lobby BU to also adopt a policy in support of student sex workers?’, as there was another similar, but more developed proposal to be discussed later in the meeting.

NL stated that the Executive Committees recommendation was to lapse ‘Should SUBU invite independent letting agents (beyond BU Lets) to the up and coming Housing Fair as a way of improving the range of information and advice available?’, as this was a single issue policy.

NL stated that the Executive Committees recommendation was to lapse ‘Should SUBU support The Peoples Vote Campaign’, as the campaign was now largely inactive.

AC called a vote as to whether the SUBU Summit participants wished to uphold the Executive Committees recommendation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1. UN SDG** | **2. Housing Fair** | **3. Sex Workers** | **4. People's Vote** |
| Executive Committee  Recommendation | Retain | Lapse | Lapse | Lapse |
| **Uphold** | **136** | **84** | **80** | **100** |
| **Reject** | 6 | 48 | 56 | 25 |
| **Abstain** | 9 | 19 | 15 | 26 |

All of the Executive Committees recommendations were upheld by the SUBU Summit.

**5. Student Ideas**

AC introduced the ideas up for discussion and invited the SUBU Summit participants to self-select discussion groups. The groups were invited to amend some, none or all of each proposal. AC advised participants they could swap discussion groups half-way through.

1. Additional Support For Students In Light of Brexit

2. Improving BU Timetables

3. Female Genital Mutilation

4. Student Sex Workers

**a. Discussion Group Amendments:**

1. Additional Support for Students In Light of Brexit

3c. to add new point stating ‘To provide information stating how Brexit will affect placements and to what extent students can seek European placements.’

3e. to add new point stating ‘SUBU to lobby BU to continue support after graduation regarding VISA and employment in Europe’

2. Improving BU Timetables

2d. to add new point ‘Be able to add BU calendar to existing calendar. Calendar centre does this but doesn’t allow to re-upload it to BU timetable.

3e. to add new point ‘For Seminar Leads to give an approximate time to how long the prework/sml would take

3f. to add new point ‘Notification to students if there are changes to timetable’

3g. to add new point ‘Be able to add voluntary classes onto BU timetable’

3h. to add a new point ‘Match BU Timetable to Zoom timetable for individual lectures for ease. Zoom ID instead of class location as a potential solution

3. Female Genital Mutilation

No amendments were made.

4. Student Sex Workers

3c. to include ‘This would include students who were seeking guidance before participating in sex work.

3d. to include ‘, by both students and staff,’

3g. to include, ‘This would include disciplinary actions such as suspension or criminal charges brought forward.’

3h. to add a new point ‘Develop a peer support network for student sex workers. This would be anonymised and would allow students to seek confidential advice.’

3i. to include ‘This support would be online or in person, to support students who wish to anonymously access information.’

3j. to include new point ‘A document showcasing the reasonings for people going into sex work (including disabilities) and why it should be equal to other job roles.’

3k. to include ‘develop an inclusive definition’ and This will reflect the increased popularity of platforms like Only Fans and the sale of non-nude material that is sex related.’

**b. Speeches and Vote:**

1. Additional Support for Students In Light of Brexit

Speech for: LR stated that he felt that it was a good idea, and that a few suggestions were made to improve the proposal.

No speech against

**Passes**

**For:** 122

**Against:** 1

**Abstain:** 8

2. Improving BU Timetables

Speech for: AK said that students should be able to treat their timetable like a calendar in order for them to input other events, enhancing university and life balance. AK understands that there is an opportunity to do this with other apps but felt that having to transfer their timetable could be quite challenging and it would be beneficial to have it all in once place, particularly for HSS students who have industry placements.

Speech against: ACo disagreed that the proposal was necessary and felt that the skill of proper planning was critical. ACo felt that other programmes provided more flexibility and that time and funds that would be required to develop this could be put to better use.

**Passes**

**For:** 85

**Against:** 35

**Abstain:** 10

3. Female Genital Mutilation

Speech for: SM stated that FGM is a procedure where female genitals are cut or deliberately changed with no medical reason and while this is illegal in the UK it still happens. SM felt that it is important that SUBU and BU protects students from all backgrounds, this includes providing more training and awareness to staff and that mandatory support should not be in place to ensure that students have someone to speak to. SM also felt that campaigns should be run to inform students what FGM is.

No speech against

**Passes**

**For:** 106

**Against:** 13

**Abstain:** 8

4. Student Sex Workers

Speech for: TA said that amendments were made to make the policy clearer such as destigmatising sex workers, creating a safe space in SUBU for sex workers to come, ensuring sex workers do not get discriminated against, financial advice, keeping sex workers safe, and support students who are being outed and bullied.

No speech against

**Passes**

**For:** 102

**Against:** 17

**Abstain:** 8

**6. AOB**

AC thanked everyone for attending and stated that the results of the vote would be emailed to all participants within the next 24 hours once all votes had been validated.

AC reminded the participants that the next Meeting would be held on the 17th of December 6:00-8:30pm on Zoom.